



The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council

**Justice and Peace for all.....**

## **NATSICC CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE 2010**

We are blessed within NATSICC to have Elders and Youth to put together this powerful Liturgy program.

The focus is on youth and communities to allow for Peace and Justice for all while promoting and celebrating the cultural identity of our peoples across the nation. By Living and expressing in all its endeavors the spirituality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic peoples.

Giving Youth a hand for our future, will empower them to listen, learn and respect our culture for our future generations.

During National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday we acknowledge the deeply religious and spiritual traditions of our ancestors with respect. This Liturgy also marks the beginning of a week of celebrations throughout the nation where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people celebrate their spirituality, identity, culture and survival.

We are truly blessed to have our Catholic Church to formalise this important liturgy in our communities.

Thelma Parker  
Chairperson  
NATSICC CHAIRPERSON



# AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

## National Office for Liturgy

Archbishop Mark Coleridge (Chairman)  
Archbishop Denis Hart  
Bishop Max Davis  
Bishop Kevin Manning

21 May, 2010

How quickly the cycle of our observances in the Catholic Church in Australia seem to come around! No sooner have we celebrated the Easter Season culminating in Pentecost and the annual observance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday is on our liturgical doorstep once more.

I thank the members of the Liturgy Committee of NATSICC for their work in putting together resources this year. With all Sunday special observances sometimes it is easy for us to think that we have “ticked the box” by paying special heed to the needs of the indigenous communities and peoples in this country, but as we all know commitment to justice and equality for the original inhabitants of this continent and surrounding islands is on-going.

Whilst we continue to acknowledge that much progress has been made, there is still much to do. Recently a priest I know was visiting communities within a few hundred kilometres of Alice Springs and commented to me that nothing much seemed to have changed for the better since he last visited several years ago.

Identifying that indigenous peoples do make up part of the life of the Catholic Church in Australia should be recognized as a gift to the Church, but at the same time we need to be consciously aware that much remains to be done.

May our observance this year lead to greater action on behalf of the Church for all indigenous persons.

Fr Peter G. Williams  
Executive Secretary  
Bishops Commission for Liturgy

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*Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday 4 July 2010*  
*NATSIICC Liturgy Resources*



*Justice and Peace for all*

**National Aboriginal  
And Torres Strait Islander Sunday**  
4<sup>th</sup> July 2010  
*Justice and Peace for all*



## *Welcome*

Today is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. We acknowledge the deeply religious and spiritual traditions of our ancestors with respect. We have chosen the theme Justice and Peace for all for this year's resources. It is also the beginning of a week of celebrations throughout the nation where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people celebrate their spirituality, identity, culture and survival. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday is the start of National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee or NAIDOC week where we are all welcomed and encouraged to join in the activities and celebrations.

A Welcome to Country by an Aboriginal Elder

ALTERNATE Acknowledgement of Country by Celebrant in the Introductory Rite.

**Entrance Processional:** May be accompanied by a Didgeridoo

**Entrance Hymn:** All the Earth

**Alternate Entrance Hymn:** Holy God we praise thy name

## *Penitential Rite*

**A Rite of Water Blessing:** It is customary in some areas, when Aboriginal people gather for important ceremonies to use water. Water containers can be a large shell or coolamon and a small branch from an appropriate native tree can be used to sprinkle the water. Please collaborate with your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander group to ensure this rite of water blessing is appropriate. Alternatively water can be used according to the rite of sprinkling in the Roman Missal.

ALTERNATE

**A Rite of Smoking:** traditionally celebrated by Aboriginal people. Since the beginning of time our ancestors used to smoke away evil spirits and receive the good spirit. We acknowledge Aboriginal Elders to lead Smoking Ceremony. Today we share with you one of the oldest living ceremonies, to remove our sins and ask for forgiveness. We invite you now to share our smoking ceremony like our ancestors have done for thousands of years.

**Non-Indigenous Congregations:**

**Reader:** Water to Aboriginal people is always a sign of God's peace and fulfillment in everything that is good; the promise of food, of harmony with ourselves, and the bush around us.

ALTERNATE

**Reader:** Fire is important to Aboriginal people and is the heart of Indigenous culture. It is the sign of the Holy Spirit that gives warmth, purifies, and brings many gifts.

**For congregations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people present:**

Lord, make us feel your invitation to 'come to the water'. At the very beginning you blessed the water, your great gift to us, and now we ask that your blessing be renewed in this water here today. We ask that through this water blessing we will all be renewed with your love, and protection, and your power to love one another as true Christians. Lord, this truly is a sign of the new life in Christ, which in Baptism we have all received.

We ask this through Jesus the Wise One.

**All:** Amen

*Opening Prayer*



**Congregations:** see Roman Missal for the Day

**Congregations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people present:**

Our Creator, Father of all that you have created. You know us.

ALTERNATE

Holy Father, God of Love, You are the Creator of this land and of all good things.  
Our hope is in you because you gave your son Jesus to reconcile the world to you.  
We pray for your strength and grace to forgive, accept and love one another, as you love us and forgive and accept us in the sacrifice of your son.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

[Prepared by Wontulp Bi – Buya Indigenous Theology Working Group]

*Readings and Reflections*

**First Reading:** Isaiah 66:10-14

**Responsorial Psalm:** of the day

**Second Reading:** Galatians 6:14-18



## *Gospel Procession*

*In the spirit of our ancestors the Message Stick can be carried forward (and upright) with the Gospel Book. It should be held upright during the Gospel reading. There are other symbols and actions that can be used according to local sacred tradition and need to be discussed according to local practice.*

**Suggested Hymn:** “Alleluia” as per local choice

**GOSPEL:** Luke 10:1-12, 17-20 Your Peace will rest upon him



## *Homily Notes*

An old lady is laid to rest in a remote community in the East Kimberley. She is remembered as one who spent many of her youthful years in a Leprosarium in faraway Derby, run by the Sisters of St. John of God. There she found faith – she fell in love with Jesus Christ and was baptized. With great devotion she often prayed the rosary, and attended Mass, considering it a privileged time with the Lord.

When she returned to her country, her faith remained steadfast and she eagerly shared it with others. On a cattle station, in ‘the camp’ as it was called, among her own people, she continued to pray the rosary and instruct people in the faith. When a priest finally visited that part of the country he encountered a number of people catechized and wanting baptism. The old lady had spoken God’s word and it was life giving.

The Church is Mission or it is not Church. As with other groups in the Australian Community, many indigenous people still reach out to others in their community, proclaiming the word of God by what they say and do. This work, initiated in baptism and driven by the Holy Spirit, has so often been characterized by a remarkable witness to a new beginning that promises all people a fullness of life in Christ.

Jesus sent the seventy-two disciples out in pairs “to all the towns he himself was to visit”. They went with a minimum of fuss and no baggage. Doubtless, there is much to be gleaned from this gospel reading.

\*We do the work Christ has missioned us to do. Not our work but the work of Christ. Witnessing to Christ we go before the Lord, being prophetic by doing and saying what God wants us to do and say. This is our calling in faith. Let us answer the call with courage and perseverance.

\*Living the Christian life is forever challenging and is not easy. Like St Paul in his letter to the Galatians – the only thing we can “boast about is the cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ”. We must expect failure and rejection but the power and grace of Christ will be the cause of much rejoicing in our world.

\* We are commanded to live simply, without unnecessary clutter in our lives. The baggage that arises from human complexity or from our own weaknesses and the burdens brought about by the great disappointments in life, too often hinder us. Anything which prevents us from picking up the cross of Christ must be left far behind.

\*We take heart at the words of Christ that nothing shall ever hurt us. Hope is not merely a life-raft; rather it is our reason to be certain that the names of the faithful “are written in heaven”.

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Aboriginal Sunday is a special time for the Church in this nation to celebrate all that is good in our lives including the abiding presence of God. While we are sorrowed by the injustices and hurts that impact upon us nonetheless the on-going pursuit of reconciliation remains a way of life. We are encouraged and graced through scripture, prayer and liturgy, by means of the teaching of our Church and in the strength of our community of faith - "...be sure of this: the kingdom of God is very near".

Bishop Christopher Saunders  
Bishop of Broome

### *Prayers of the Faithful*

Please select the intentions for your community from the following:

**Celebrant:** Loving God, on this day of celebration we acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the first peoples of Australia. We turn to you in prayer for our families and communities. Guide us all to be open to your spirit as we seek your peace and justice.

**Reader:** God of all creation, all things and all people are in your care. May your vision for the world be effective in our lives. We pray for understanding and respect for all peoples and peace and justice for all nations.

**All:** We pray for peace and justice for all.

**Reader:** We pray for our Church, our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, our Bishops, Priests, Deacons, and Religious Sisters and Brothers who inspire and strengthen us by the witness of their commitment. May they continue to be embraced by your love.

**All:** We pray for peace and justice for all.

**Reader:** We Honour our Elders guiding our communities, may they maintain their vision, wisdom and strength to grow our young ones.

**All:** We pray for peace and justice for all.

**Reader:** For all our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, give them strength and courage to work collaboratively with our people. We recognize the part played by quiet achievers and unsung heroes in our communities.

**All:** We pray for peace and justice for all.

**Reader:** For all politicians and policy makers, may their decisions be guided by the spirit of the First Peoples and all the elements of this land to work with our people and communities.

**All:** We pray for peace and justice for all.

**Reader:** For our youth, provide them the gifts of the Holy Spirit to shape their future.

**All:** We pray for peace and justice for all.

**Reader:** For those who were stolen or lost, may they find their families and the strength of their identity. Through your Holy Spirit help them to find a place of belonging.

**All:** We pray for peace and justice for all.

**Reader:** We pray for the sick and dying and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. We pray for compassion, healing, wellbeing and protection for those who are suffering.

**All:** We pray for peace and justice for all.

**Celebrant:** We pray Almighty God, as your people, we seek the power of your Spirit. We bring these prayers of needs before you in trust and confidence.



### **Offertory Procession**

In some areas the coolamon is used to carry the bread to the altar. In the absence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people participating in the celebration a coolamon can be placed in front of the altar as a symbol of the non presence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters at the table. (Alternative/additional Aboriginal gifts: a boomerang, woomera, Aboriginal painting, clap sticks ... )

**Recommended Preface:** As per Ordinary Sunday

**Communion Rite:** Lord's Prayer and Sign of the Peace

**Aboriginal Our Father** (Can be sung)

### **Chorus**

**You are our Father, you live in heaven. We talk to you, Father you are good.**

**You are our Father, you live in heaven. We talk to you, Father you are good.**

1 We believe your Word, Father, we your children give us bread today.  
We believe your Word, Father, we your children give us bread today.

2 We have done wrong, we are sorry. Help us Father not to sin again.  
We have done wrong, we are sorry. Help us Father not to sin again.

3 Others have done wrong to us, and we are sorry for them, Father today.  
Others have done wrong to us, and we are sorry for them, Father today.

4 Stop us from doing wrong, Father. Save us all from the evil one.

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Stop us from doing wrong, Father. Save us all from the evil one.

**Communion Hymn:** "Isaiah 49", "The cry of the poor"

### **Communion Reflection for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Congregations**

#### **Prayer of the Aboriginal People**

Father of all you gave us the Dreaming.  
You have spoken to us through our beliefs.  
You then made your love clear to us in the person of Jesus.  
We thank you for your care.

You own us. You are our hope.  
Make us strong as we face the problems of change.

We ask you to help the people of Australia  
to listen to us and respect our culture.  
Make the knowledge of you grow strong in all people,  
So that you can be at home in us and  
We can make a home for everyone in our land.

**Amen**

#### **Alternative**

#### **NATSICC Jubilee Prayer (to be read by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Person)**

Father, Our Creator  
You created all things seen and unseen  
Listen to my silent prayers as I stand here before you  
As my weary eyes look back over distant horizons,  
Back to those days where my people walked.  
The footprints of my Grandfathers are imprinted on the earth,  
And the images become real to me.

I see my Grandfathers standing tall and strong,  
Warriors of long ago.  
I hear them singing.  
I see them dancing,  
And my Spirit moves within me.

They told of the emus fighting,  
And the kangaroos picking up the scent of our hunters.  
The images fade away as I feel the hurt of my people.

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I can hear the cries of my Grandmothers as they cry for their children.  
Grandfather, you can see me as I stand here and feel this hurt.

Father Creator, is this the purpose of my being here.  
Or is it your plan to reshape my people  
To be once again the proud race it once was?

Let me walk with you and my Grandfathers  
Towards the dawning of a proud and new nation.  
I thank you for my Sacred Being.

## *Prayer over the People*

### **Reconciliation Prayer**

Holy Father, God of Love  
You are the Creator of this land and all good things  
We acknowledge the pain and shame of our history  
And the suffering of our peoples.  
And we ask your forgiveness.  
We thank you for the survival of Indigenous cultures  
Our hope is in you because you gave your son Jesus  
To reconcile the world to you.  
We pray for your strength and grace to forgive,  
Accept and love one another,  
As you love us and forgive and accept us  
In the sacrifice of your Son.  
Give us the courage to accept the realities of our history  
So that we may build a better future for our nation.  
Teach us to respect all cultures.  
Teach us to care for our land and waters.  
Help us to share justly the resources of this land.  
Help us to bring about spiritual and social change  
To improve the quality of life for all groups in our communities,  
Especially the disadvantaged.  
Help our young people to find true dignity and self esteem by your Spirit  
May your power and love be the foundations  
on which we build our families, our communities and our Nation.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

**Concluding Hymn:** “How great thou art” alternate “Hymn to the Holy Spirit”, or “All Over the World”

**Recessional Procession** may be accompanied by the Didgeridoo. Aboriginal Elders join if applicable.  
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## NATSICC VISION STATEMENT



*The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council promotes and celebrates the cultural identity of our peoples across the nation.*

*By Living and expressing in all its endeavours the spirituality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic peoples.*

*Through this expression and recognition of our cultural identity we will find our rightful place within the Catholic Church in Australia.*

## NATSICC Logo

The NATSICC Logo depicts a willy willy, the wind force in the centre a symbol of God's Spirit. The round concentric circles at the top symbolise God and Life, the base depicts men and women receiving the Holy Spirit. The logo was designed by **Mrs Olive Boddington**, Western Australia.

## NATSICC COUNCILORS 2009 - 2012

Chairperson Thelma Parker	Queensland Representative
Deputy Chair John Lochowiak	South Australian Representative
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Ronita Barratt	Tasmanian Representative
Kerry O'Callaghan	Australian Capital Territory Representative
Lisa Buxton	New South Wales Representative
Kathleen Callow	Western Australia Representative

## REFERENCES AND SUGGESTIONS

### **NATSICC Jubilee Prayer**

Kija people, Kimberley, Western Australia  
(sometimes referred to as the Lord's Prayer)

Prepared by Aboriginal people for the visit to Alice Springs in 1986 of (the late) Pope John Paul II

### **Reconciliation Prayer**

13 March 1997 Brisbane, Qld.

### **NATSICC Leadership Gathering 1995**

Wontulp Bi-Buya Indigenous Theology Working Group

## ARTWORK

'Justice and Peace for all', Melissa Brickell, Yorta Yorta – Wiradjeri, Victoria, 2010;

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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